

Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02

OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /103 W

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R 130946Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANJUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3058

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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JOINT STATE/AID MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID GA

SUBJECT: UNDP CASH FLOW CRUNCH IN THE GAMBIA

1. UNDP RESREP GUY BELIARD MET WITH CHARGE TO DISCUSS THE VERY TIGHT FUNDING SITUATION FACING UNDP/BANJUL AS A RESULT OF REDUCED UNDP RESOURCES. ALTHOUGH THE STRINGENCIES ARE GOING TO HURT HERE, HE NOTED THAT UNDP OFFICES WORLDWIDE MUST BE FACING THE SAME PROBLEM.

2. UNDP/BANJUL FUNDING CALCULATIONS INDICATE THAT THERE IS NOW AN IMMEDIATE SHORTFALL OF \$200,000 IF THEY ARE TO CARRY ON WITH THOSE ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDERWAY AND HIGHEST PRIORITY ITEMS SOON TO BEGIN. IF THIS SUM IS NOT FOUND SOMEWHERE, UNDP WILL HAVE TO START CUTTING FROM ACTIVITIES LEGALLY COMMITTED. BELIARD FEELS THIS WILL BE VERY AWKWARD IN TERMS OF UNDP'S GOOD RELATIONSHIPS IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN VIEW OF ITS EXPECTED ROLE AS THE LARGEST DONOR.

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3. IN ADDITION, AN ADDED \$200,000 SHORTFALL MILITATES AGAINST

STARTING NEW ACTIVITIES ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE. COMMITMENTS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES ARE APPARENTLY ALL BUT SIGNED. AGAIN, HE FEELS RENEGING ON THESE WILL BE VERY COMPROMISING OF UNDP.

4. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE, BELIARD HAS INFORMED SENIOR-LEVEL GOTG OFFICIALS OF THE PROBLEM AND MADE WHAT HE CONSIDERS AN ALMOST PAINFUL PROPOSAL: THAT THE GOTG ITSELF UNDERWRITE THE \$400,000 SHORTFALL IN THE EXPECTATION THAT IT WOULD BE OFFSET FROM FY-77 UNDP FUNDING. BELIARD HAD TO ADMIT TO THE GOTG, OF COURSE, THAT THE "REPAYMENT" COULD NOT BE ASSURED AT THIS TIME. GOTG EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT THE IMMEDIACY OF THE LIQUIDITY CRUNCH AND INDICATED IT WOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH THE PRESIDENT. IT IS UNKNOWN WHETHER THE GOTG WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

5. IT SEEMS THAT UNDP/BANJUL HAS NOT YET BITTEN THE BULLET TO DETERMINE WHERE CUTS ARE TO BE MADE IF THE SHORTFALLS ARE NOT COVERED SOMEHOW. UNDP AND GOTG HAVE, HOWEVER, LISTED THEIR PRIORITIES IN RANK ORDER FOR CONTINUING AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED IF THE FIRST \$200,000 OR THE WHOLE \$400,000 ARE FOUND.
WYGANT

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